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PRESS RELEASE

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Three Defendants Sentenced in New Year's Eve Attack - Assault Blinded Victim in One Eye -

WASHINGTON - Franklin Robinson, 29, Tashemia Beal, 25, and Arnise Wilson, 20, all of Washington, D.C., were sentenced today to prison terms for their roles in a December 31, 2009 attack that left the victim blind in one eye, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Robinson was sentenced to a six-year prison term, and Beal and Wilson were each sentenced to 2 ½ years of incarceration. Following completion of their prison terms, all will be placed on five years of supervised release.

The three defendants were convicted in March 2011 by a jury in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia of charges of aggravated assault while armed, assault with a dangerous weapon, and destruction of property. They were sentenced by the Honorable Robert I. Richter, who said they have shown a lack of remorse for a brutal beating that had horrific consequences.

According to the trial testimony, the victim and Beal have two daughters from a relationship that ended in 2004. Since then, Beal became involved with Robinson. The relationship between Beal and the victim, meanwhile, grew more hostile. Because of the tense nature of their communications, they had not seen or talked to one another in more than six months.

On December 31, 2009 at approximately 1:30 p.m., the victim dropped off his daughters at Beal's apartment. Beal was outside with her friend, Wilson. She and Wilson argued with the victim, and Wilson threatened to beat him. The victim left without harm.

Four hours later, the victim and his fiancé saw Beal and Robinson in a store parking lot. Beal pulled her car next to theirs, and both Beal and Robinson threatened to beat the victim and his fiancé. Robinson noticed that there was a police officer in the parking lot, and Beal sped away.

At approximately 7:30 p.m., the victim and his fiancé were at home on Astor Place SE, getting ready for New Year's Eve. Beal called their phone and told them they were outside.

Wilson was standing by the victim's car holding a metal pole in her hand, and Beal was in the street by her own car.

Concerned that he did not see Robinson anywhere, the victim told his fiancé to call 911 and then he went outside to try to defuse the situation.

As the victim attempted to reason with Wilson, she began cursing and tried to strike him with the pole. The victim grabbed the pole to prevent her from striking him, and it was at that point that Beal yelled, "Frank, he's right here! He's right here!" Within a matter of moments, the victim was struck in the head by a concrete brick by Robinson's brother, David Robinson. The victim was then struck in the legs with the metal pole by Wilson, and he dropped to the ground.

Eyewitnesses observed Franklin Robinson emerge and jump on the victim, who was in a fetal position on the ground trying to protect his head. Robinson was observed kicking, punching, and stomping on the victim's face and body as his brother, David Robinson, punched the victim in the ribs. Eyewitnesses also observed Wilson strike the victim in the face and body with the pole. Thereafter, Wilson smashed out the windows and windshield of his car. Throughout the attack, Beal stood by the group and yelled curses at the victim and his fiancé. All three defendants, along with David Robinson, fled as the police were arriving.

The victim sustained a bone fracture and several lacerations to his face and head. He also sustained a hole in his retina which has left him permanently blind in his right eye.

David Robinson pled guilty in October 2010 to a charge of aggravated assault while armed. He was sentenced recently by the Honorable Ronna L. Beck to three years in prison.

In announcing the sentences, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation to the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). He also commended the work of Legal Assistant Nicole Lee, Paralegal Specialist Donhue Griffith, Victim Advocates Meshall Thomas and Christina Principe, members of the Litigation Service Unit, Tommy Miller from the Case Investigation Unit, Assistant U.S. Attorney Courtney Saleski, who conducted the grand jury investigation, and Lindsay Suttentberg, who prosecuted the case at trial.